

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this application in light of the Final Office Action mailed August 25, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application and respectfully request favorable action in this case

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 38, 2-7, 39, 9-14, 40, 32-34, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,414 ("*Su*").

In Applicants' prior response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed February 25, 2004, Applicants pointed out that *Su* does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, because, as the Examiner acknowledged in that Office Action, *Su* does not disclose separate processors as recited in the claims. In the latest Office Action mailed August 25, 2004, the Examiner did not address or respond Applicants' argument. Indeed, the Examiner again stated, "*Su* did not specifically disclose said processors being separate. . . ." (p. 5). Because *Su*, by the Examiner's admissions, does not disclose separate processors, *Su* cannot anticipate Applicants' claims under section 102(e).

Independent Claim 38 and Dependent Claims 2-7

Independent Claim 38 recites:

An apparatus for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

a mixing processor operable to mix input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant; and

a first media transformation processor coupled to the mixing processor, the first media transformation processor operable to receive the output media information from the mixing processor, to encode the output media information to generate an output data stream, and to communicate the output data stream to the second participant's end-user device.

Su does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants' claimed invention because, as the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action, *Su* does not disclose separate processors as recited in the claims. Independent Claims 38 requires multiple processors: a "mixing processor" and a "first media transformation processor." The specification provides:

Media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 represent separate hardware components. The functionality described below may be implemented using separate hardware components or software that executes using the separate hardware components. Thus, media transformation processor 12 and mixing processor 14 do not operate using the same actual physical computing machinery. Media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 may represent separate microprocessors, controllers, digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated circuit chips mounted to a circuit board. Alternatively, media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 may represent separate networks of electronic components, such as transistors, diodes, resistors, etc., and their interconnections etched or imprinted on a single chip. In such an embodiment, media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 may use shared resources but generally rely on separate pipelines to perform the majority of their processing. Although media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 represent separate hardware components, the hardware components are not necessarily different in type. In a particular embodiment, media transformation processors 12 and mixing processors 14 are implemented using the same type of digital signal processors.

(p. 9). In contrast, as the Examiner stated in the Office Action, "*Su* did not specifically disclose said processors being separate. . . ." (p. 5). While *Su* states "the present invention may be realized by any number of hardware components or software elements configured to perform the specified function" (col. 2, ll. 51-53), *Su* does not specify that the functions of decoders 230 and 234, mixer 238 and 240, and encoder 232 and 236 are assigned to separate processors.

For at least this reason, *Su* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the "mixing processor" and "first media transformation processor" of Claim 38. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 38, as well as Claims 2-7 which depend from Claim 38.

Independent Claim 39 and Dependent Claims 9-14

Independent Claim 39 recites:

A method for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

mixing input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant;

communicating the output media information from a mixing processor to a first media transformation processor;

encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream; and

communicating the output data stream from the first media transformation processor to the second participant's end-user device.

Su does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants' claimed invention because, as the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action, *Su* does not disclose separate processors as recited in the claims. Like Claims 38, independent Claim 39 requires multiple processors. Claim 39 recites the steps "mixing input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant," "communicating the output media information from a mixing processor to a first media transformation processor," and "encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream." As pointed out above with respect to Claim 38, these separate processors represent separate hardware components. In contrast, as the Examiner stated in the Office Action, "Su did not specifically disclose said processors being separate. . . ." (p. 5). While *Su* states "the present invention may be realized by any number of hardware components or software elements configured to perform the specified function" (col. 2, ll. 51-53), *Su* does not specify that the functions of decoders 230 and 234, mixer 238 and 240, and encoder 232 and 236 are assigned to separate processors.

For at least this reason, *Su* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the "mixing processor" and "first media transformation processor" of Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 39, as well as Claims 9-14 which depend from Claim 39.

Independent Claim 40 and Dependent Claims 32-34 and 37

Independent Claim 40 recites:

A system for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

a plurality of end-user devices coupled to a data network and operable to generate input media information, to encode the input media information to generate input data streams, and to communicate the input data streams using the data network; and

a conferencing device coupled to the data network, the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams;

wherein the end-user devices are further operable to receive the output data streams and to decode the output data streams to generate output media information

Su does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants' claimed invention because, as the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action, *Su* does not disclose separate processors as recited in the claims. Like Claims 38 and 39, independent Claim 40 requires multiple processors. Claim 40 recites, "the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams." As pointed out above with respect to Claim 38, these separate processors represent separate hardware components. In contrast, as the Examiner stated in the Office Action, "*Su* did not specifically disclose said processors being separate. . . ." (p. 5). While *Su* states "the present invention may be realized by any number of hardware components or software elements configured to perform the specified function" (col. 2, ll. 51-53), *Su* does not specify that the functions of decoders 230 and 234, mixer 238 and 240, and encoder 232 and 236 are assigned to separate processors.

For at least this reason, *Su* does not disclose, teach, or suggest “the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams,” as recited in Claim 40. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 40, as well as Claims 32-34 and 37 which depend from Claim 40.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 6, and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Su* in view of U.S. Patent 5,841,763 (“*Leondires*”).

According to the Examiner, *Leondires* “discloses a conferencing device with separate processors.” (p. 5). *Leondires*, however, does not disclose, teach, or suggest using separate processors for mixing and encoding. The portion of the specification cited by the Examiner describes audio encoding digital signal processors (ADPs) and audio encoding digital signal processors (AEPs). The ADPs decode audio information. (Col. 14, ll. 33-43). The AEPs mix and encode audio information: “The AEPs read the decoded audio signals from DSs time slots, mix the decoded audio signals from each of the conferees and encode the results of the mixing according to the particular G-series standard.” (Col. 14, ll. 51-54).

In contrast to the AEPs of *Leondires*, Claims 38 and 39 require two separate processors for mixing and encoding. Claim 39 requires: (1) “a mixing processor operable to mix input media information” and (2) “first media transformation processor operable to receive the output media information from the mixing processor, to encode the output media information to generate an output data stream, and to communicate the output data stream to the second participant’s end-user device.” Similarly, Claim 39 distinguishes between a mixing processor for mixing and a media transformation processor for encoding. Claim 39 requires the following steps: “mixing input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant,” “communicating the output media information from a mixing processor to a first

media transformation processor,” and “encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream.”

For the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claims 38, 39, and 40, as well as these additional reasons, *Su* and *Leondires* do not disclose Applicants’ claimed invention recited in dependent Claims 5, 6, and 35-56. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 5, 6, and 35-36.

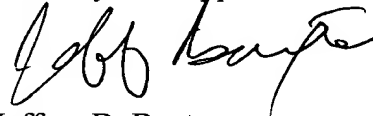
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of pending Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 32-40. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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